

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2025

GATHERING

Though I walk in darkness, O Lord, I will not be afraid, for I know that the morning will come, and the great light of your glory will shine all around me; through Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.

PRELUDE

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve	JEG ER SÅ GLAD	Congregational Hymn (See pg. 5)
Quia respexit from Magnificat	J.S. Bach	Alanna Parfait, soprano John Netardus, oboe Elaina Cook, violin Dr. Timothy Mutschlechner, cello
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	D. Funderburk	Kate Vellis, alto
Still, Still, Still	German Traditional	
Away in a Manger	MUELLER	Congregational Hymn (See pg. 5)
O Holy Night	A. Adam arr. C. Deis	Dr. Heather Harrell, soprano Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos, violin
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella	C. Moglebust	Handbell Ensemble
He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah	G.F. Handel	Lynette Pfund, soprano Calvin Pfund, trumpet

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Todd, Holli, Marin, Owen, & Luci Best

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!</p> <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels; Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!</p> | <p>2. True God from true God, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!</p> <p>4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!</p> |
|--|---|

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age, worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING (See pg. 6)

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 638

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Christmas Is Here

J. Alexander and J. Kozhevnikova

Thank you to Janine Alexander, First Presbyterian Church member, and Jane Kozhevnikova, UF doctoral student, for writing and arranging the anthem, "Christmas Is Here."

Candles burning slow, freshly falling snow, twinkly lights a-glow. Christmas is near. On that starry night, north star shining bright, it shown a heav'nly light... Christmas is near. Christmas is here, the angels claim from above, the Father sends down His sweet love, Christmas is here. Christmas is here, the Father has sent us a King, a baby in a manger scene. Christmas is here. That day so long ago the world would fin'lly know, a Savior child was born, Christmas is here!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Fred Lundy

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GOSPEL READING (See pg. 6)

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 58

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Rev. Mark Hults

RESPONDING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Page 35

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

During the offering we invite you to use the Fellowship pad. Please fill it out and pass it down the pew and back again, making note of those who are worshipping with you.

The *Christmas Offering* will benefit Gainesville Community Ministry, a local ministry providing emergency help and hope to families and individuals who are in crisis and lack the basic necessities of life. Use the special *Christmas Offering* envelopes available in the pew rack or write "Christmas" on the memo line to donate to Gainesville Community Ministry.

OFFERTORY

O Babe Divine and Fum, Fum, Fum

E. Pettman
A. Parker & R. Shaw

Alanna Parfait, soprano; Rebecca Ruescher, alto; Andrew Netardus, tenor; Benjamin Williams, bass

O Babe Divine, now will I sing to Thee a song of love-longing: Make in my heart a quick well spring, Thyself to love above all thing. O Holy Child, my dim heart's gleam, O brighter than the sunny beam! As Thou wast born in Bethlehem, be born in me and be my dream. O Prince of Peace, my dark soul's light! Thou art a day without a night:

O give me strength and give me might ever to love Thyself aright.

On December five and twenty, Fum, Fum, Fum! Oh, a child was born this night, so rosy white, Son of Mary, Virgin Holy, in a stable mean and lowly, Fum, Fum, Fum! On December's most important day, let us be gay! We go first to church and then we have the sweetest buns and candy, Fum, Fum, Fum! God will send us days of feasting, Fum, Fum, Fum! Both in hot months and in cold, for young and old. When we tell the Holy Story, ever singing of His glory, Fum, Fum, Fum!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Page 35

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Gluten-Free Bread)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Instructions for Candle Lighting

Parents with small children should assist the children in lighting and holding candles.
All participants should hold lit candles upright at all times. When lighting your neighbor's candle, tip the unlit candle only, to help prevent drippings of wax on the floor, furniture, and clothes.
As you exit during the postlude, drop your extinguished candles in the empty bins provided.

* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

4. Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

SENDING

* CHRISTMAS EVE BLESSING

* HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Please extinguish candles during the introduction to Joy to the World.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Candlelight Carol

Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos, violin

J. Rutter

violin arr. S.Z. Rinonos

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
ALL: 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
MEN: 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
ALL: 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
WOMEN: 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
ALL: 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
 Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

JEG ER SÅ GLAD

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Orchestrations: The settings of "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" and "Away in a Manger" are by Robert Hobby; the setting of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is by David Willcocks; the settings of "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Joy to the World" are by Jeremy Bankson; and the setting of "Silent Night" is by Robert Powell.



The Poinsettias Decorating the Church are Given

In Loving Memory of

- W. J. Alexander, Sr., his wife, JoAnn, and Jimmy Jr. by Janine Alexander
- Shannon M. Brumfield Ashley by Dr. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley by Dr. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Dr. & Mrs. Orlan Brumfield by Dr. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Dr. Harry O'Neal, Jessie O'Neal, and Diana Brown by Belinda Bethea, Hayden Bethea, Maggie Bethea, and Bracken Walding
- John Bonerba by Trudy Bonerba and family
- Cecilia A. Caton by her family
- Carter Rowell Gilbert by the Gilbert Family
- Robert F. & Doris Hyatt by Robert & Lou Hyatt
- Leonard & Carolyn Willey by Robert & Lou Hyatt
- My 95-year-old sister, who passed away on October 20, 2025, by Cora Kurtz
- Ben Samuels and Ralph & Shirley Lingg by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- Theral & Nancy Moore by their grandchildren, Eli and Sydney, and their great-grandchildren, Roscoe, Zelah, and Riley
- Stuart Moseley by Thomas Niemi
- Ray Whitworth by the Osmun Family
- Frank & Connie Osmun by the Osmun Family
- My husband, Ben Samuels, and Claude & Margaret Allen, Irbie Johnson, Homer & Stella Samuels, and George A. & Shirley Dell by Eleanor Samuels
- Our parents, Lloyd & Isabelle Smith and Fred & Gladys Yetter, by Rick & Jane Smith
- J. Bruce Hoffman by the Spiegel/Hoffman Families
- Nancy & Gene Spiegel by the Spiegel/Hoffman Families
- Ken & Mary Durrance from Glenna & Geoff
- Dr. Harry Walker, Mary Walker, and Cissy Walker by Steven Walker & Rachel Williams

- Jane Cunningham by Libby Wood
- Edwin A. Rinonos by his wife, Zenaida Zapanta-Rinonos, and daughter, Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos
- Bishop Bernardo & Jacqueline Zapanta by their daughter, Zenaida Zapanta-Rinonos, and granddaughter, Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos

In Honor of

- Terry F. Ashley by Dr. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Judy Dawson by Dr. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- My sons, James and Joey Tillery, by Trudy Bonerba
- A. Harry Williams IV and Dave Cornelius from the FitzGerald Family
- Eleanor Samuels by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- The LOGOS Committee - Beverly Vloedman, Evelyn Lewis, Jessica Berger, Megan Conerly, Margaret Dowling, Megan Greer, and Mitch Rorick by the LOGOS children and youth
- Carolyn Whitworth by the Osmun Family
- My children, Cindy, Margaret, Benford, and Allen and their families by Eleanor Samuels
- Frances Marion Hoffman for her first Christmas from the Spiegel/Hoffmann Families
- Beth Wood by Libby Wood



THIS EVENING IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ACOLYTE: Travis Fosser

USHERS: Roger Bachmann, Paul Bennett, Tom Chamberlain, Ken Mears, Mary Lou Schubert, Stephanie Tyler

CONDUCTORS: Andrew Netardus, Alanna Parfait, Mitch Rorick

CHANCEL CHOIR

BASS: Daniel Peterson

CELLO: Dr. Timothy Mutschlecner

FLUTE: Christine Alicot

HANDBELL TREE: Andrew Netardus, Andrew Osmun

ORGAN & PIANO: Anait Piloyan

TIMPANI: Norah Barat

VIOLA: Jean Quillen

VIOLIN 2: Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Mitch Rorick

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Frank Counts, John Rayl

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

BASSOON: Dr. Shannon Lowe

CLARINET: Dr. Peter Geldrich

FRENCH HORN: Emerson Barat

OBOE: John Netardus

PERCUSSION: Dr. Wendy Gunther

TRUMPET: Calvin Pfund

VIOLIN 1: Elaina Cook

VIOLIN DIVISI: Cordelia Pfund

May Jesus bless you and yours and may the light of the Christ Child
continue to shine through you as you share His love with others.

Merry Christmas from the First Presbyterian Church Staff.

First Presbyterian Church

106 SW 3rd Street Gainesville, Florida 32601 · 352-378-1527 · 1stpc.org

At First Presbyterian Church, we strive to *Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs*. Join us for worship on Sundays in the chapel at 8:30 a.m. or the sanctuary at 11 a.m., visit our YouTube Channel to worship online, or watch the broadcast on Cox Channel 11 at 9 a.m. For more on our ministries, please email the staff or contact the church office at (352) 378-1527.

Do you know someone who loves working with children and youth? We are currently looking for a new ministry leader to oversee all faith formation opportunities for these ages. This is a full-time position which collaborates with a team of invested volunteers and partners with families in meaningful ways. For more information, please contact the church office at (352) 378-1527 or visit www.1stpc.org to apply.

Our College Ministry is for both undergrad and graduate students. We meet regularly on Sunday mornings for worship and a lunch, on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for Bible Study, and during the year for outreach projects, special events, and retreats. Contact Jonathon Haney.

The Young Adult Ministry is for post-college through empty-nesters. This includes singles and couples who are navigating careers and/or families. If this describes you; Thanks for being here! We hope you also consider this your invitation to join us - When you can - for - What you can! Contact Fred Lundy.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Director of College Ministry

Jonathon Haney - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Ministry of Music: With choirs for all voices aged three and above, we welcome all ages to join in dedicating their voices to God. Throughout the year we sponsor Concerts for a Cause, whose proceeds support mission partners locally and globally. Our next concert, *Ocean Voyage Immersive Concert III*, is Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m. Contact Mitch Rorick.

At First Presbyterian Preschool, we believe it is important for children to experience a Christian environment and take part in religious activities. Our qualified and degreed teachers also emphasize school readiness and literacy with a hands-on approach to teaching. Contact Lisa Hershkowitz.

Online Contributions: Go to www.1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and designate a ministry in the memo. Contact Trudy Bonerba.

Year-End Giving: Contributions to the church made through Wednesday, December 31, 2025 will be credited to the calendar year 2025. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on December 28, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by Wednesday, December 31. There will be limited office hours after Christmas. If you need to stop in, please plan on coming on Monday through Wednesday, December 29-31. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Sextons - Tony Cogdill, Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com